

\$4 MILLION DONATION TO UCLA BY SAN MANUEL BAND OF MISSION INDIANS TO ESTABLISH TRIBAL LEARNING COMMUNITY AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Donation is Largest Ever by Tribe to Educational Institution

LOS ANGELES and THE SAN MANUEL INDIAN NATION – March 10, 2004 – The University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Law and the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians today announced a first-ever of its kind donation to an educational institution by an Indian nation. The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians has bestowed a \$4 million gift to the university to establish a Tribal Learning Community and Educational Exchange in support of Native American study, which will be administered by the UCLA Native Nations Law and Policy Center. A first for tribes as well, this gift represents the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians' strong commitment to higher education.

"UCLA has world-renowned programs in law and American Indian studies, and through the creation of the Tribal Learning Community and Educational Exchange Center, we hope to increase awareness of, and grow interest in, the often ignored history of Native Americans and our ongoing legal strife at the state and federal level," said Deron Marquez, chairman of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. "We believe our donation underscores the importance of funding the study of Native American law and community development, and our hope is to set the precedent for other tribes to come forward and demonstrate their commitment to, and the importance of, Native nations studies in their local communities as well."

The Tribal Learning Community and Educational Exchange will serve students recruited from Southern California tribes, as well as law students, graduate, and undergraduate students already enrolled at UCLA, and is committed to fostering the following goals:

- to provide professional development for California tribal members and open pathways to tribal higher education
- partner Native instructors with university professors to address educational needs
- develop tribal, community college and university collaborations on Native American curriculum development and course-sharing, including on-line and videoconferenced classes
- train and supervise students in community building projects, internships and in providing law clinic services to tribes engaged in nation building efforts
- introduce new courses in nation building and California tribal histories, cultures, contemporary issues and policy

"We accept this generous contribution from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians with much excitement and hope for the future of American Indian law studies here at UCLA," said Interim Dean Norman Abrams. "The tribe's donation will provide this institution with the means to implement our commitment to American Indian legal studies. We commend the tribe for its support for education of the next generation of lawyers who aim to understand and practice Indian law, and to work on issues relating to the rights of Native Americans in our state and federal legal systems."

Abrams added, "We appreciate the hard work of UCLA School of Law faculty Carole Goldberg and Pat Sekaquaptewa, as well as Professor Duane Champagne for making this gift possible."

UCLA is the first law school to have a juris doctorate/master of arts in American Indian Studies which is offered in conjunction with the UCLA's Interdepartmental Program in American Indian Studies. Professor Carole Goldberg, a prominent scholar of Native American law, is director of the Joint Degree Program and is faculty chair of the Native Nations Law and Policy Center.

About the Native Nations Law and Policy Center

The Native Nations Law and Policy Center was created to support Indian nations throughout the United States, especially in California, in developing their systems of governance and addressing critical policy issues. UCLA School of Law faculty member Pat Sekaquaptewa, a member of the Hopi Tribe, is the Director of the Center, which has a Research and Publications division, an Education and Outreach division, and a Legal Clinic division. Within the Legal Clinic division are the Tribal Legal Development Clinic and the Hopi Appellate Project. The Tribal Legal Development Clinic provides instruction to law

and MA students and supervises clinical work on approved tribal legal development projects submitted by Tribes and tribal organizations.

About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

Descendents of the Serrano Indians, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians inhabited a territory spanning the San Bernardino Mountains, valley and adjoining desert lands for centuries. Today, the tribe is located on the San Manuel Reservation near Highland, Calif. Like other tribal lands in the United States, the San Manuel Reservation is a sovereign nation with its own system of government and tribal laws. The tribe operates the San Manuel Indian Bingo and Casino and the San Manuel Bottled Water Group, in addition to managing a variety of economic ventures. A partner in the community, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians actively contributes to a variety of projects in neighboring areas. Nearby cities and towns receive support from the tribe for cultural, social, and economic projects to benefit the common good of the communities in which the tribe's members live and work.

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